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26 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report - Language School

1. On Monday, 22 November, we were visited by the Commandant, DLI East Coast, Captain Zimmerman, his two principal deputies, Cols. Wingate and Crown, and Professor Bondi, his Dean of Instruction. We spent about an hour briefing them on the Language School and discussed various substantive and administrative questions. This was followed by a tour of LS facilities. Col. Zimmerman and I agreed that an exchange of this type should take place fairly frequently since the Roundtable forum does not offer the opportunity for this kind of "nuts and bolts" exchange of information.

2. Language training received a boost from two COSs this week:

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a. A former student reported a conversation with [] asked if the student had completed the full Lao course. When the answer was negative, the COS, Vientiane said he would like him to continue his training in the field; no, more than that, he insisted that the student continue his training overseas.

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b. [] and currently studying [], voluntarily sent a memorandum to the field strongly endorsing a project of [] to collect taped audio and video taped materials []. The memorandum concluded: "We will be grateful for anything the Station can produce. Some assistance in this matter will surely improve the linguistic capability of officers prior to arrival at post. Among the first beneficiaries will be the undersigned."

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3. [] has resumed his teaching of English []. Last spring the instruction was based on Chinese-to-English translation by the students. This time they will be writing English compositions with no reference to original Chinese. A translation

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exercise is mainly to determine the students' competence in the language of the original. Since Chinese is the native language of these students, it was felt that original English compositions would be a more useful basis for the instruction. [] is always very helpful in furnishing guest speakers for our classes and proficiency testers for our graduates, so we were happy to be able to help them in return.

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4. One of the projects in which we have been involved in the past two years is the evaluation of our Language Proficiency Testing Program, particularly the multiple choice reading comprehension tests that were developed here during the late 1950s. The first step was to collect representative data. This task has been extremely slow because we test relatively few persons in some languages. However, we recently were able to analyze a sample of 2,675 raw test scores in French, Spanish, German, Russian, Chinese, Italian, and Portuguese. We are grateful to [] of Psychological Services Staff, OMS who conducted a study using the data that we provided. We had a very fruitful discussion with [] on the implications of the report and now intend to analyze each of the seven tests to identify items with low discriminative power. Since we had already tabulated the test items with the assistance of the Clerical Pool, this part of the study is already under way. The final result will be an adjustment of the scoring scale now in use to rectify what seem to be imbalances among the various tests.

5. The following information was provided by various members of the Interagency Language Roundtable which met at FSI on 19 November:

- a. Despite the threat of cuts to the military, DLI still expects to train 9,000 - 10,000 language students next year.
- b. Because DLI has terminated its contract arrangements with commercial schools in Washington, the east coast language school is increasing its staff. They are actively recruiting instructors in all the languages they teach, and have added Slovenian, Swahili, and Lingala to their offerings.
- c. The Commandant of DLI, Col. Kessler, is retiring in January and will be replaced by a Col. Koenig.
- d. FSI has started a program of sending a few highly selected students abroad to live on the economy after completing their language course in Washington. The students will do nothing for about two months except continue their study of the language through contact with

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the local populace. Although the two-month "enrichment tour" will be somewhat structured to fit the student's later assignment, the participants will have no official duties during the tour.

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e. [] in talking about the FSI language incentive program, gave us a little history of the program. It seems that the original plan (1960-61) was a cash award system similar to ours. When that idea was vetoed by Congressman Rooney, the Foreign Service resorted to step increases, even though they knew such a program would be more costly and harder to administer. If they had a choice, they would go over to a system of cash awards.

6. Language School Statistics Week of 15 - 19 November 1971:

Students

Full-time - 80
Part-time - 201 (100 BAHLT)
(56 Hqs.)
TOTAL.....281

Classes

Full-time - 40
Part-time - 47 (11 BAHLT)
(10 Hqs.)
TOTAL.....87

Laboratory Hours: Language School - 173
Headquarters - 78

There were 22 proficiency tests given.

[]

Chief, Language School

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